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Joint Inspection Unit

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2011/3)

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2011/3)" (see A/73/311).

* A/73/150.

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Summary

In its report entitled "Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2011/3)" (A/73/311), the Joint Inspection Unit responds to the requests of the General Assembly in resolutions 71/244 and 72/237 to review the status of recommendations contained in its earlier report on the same topic (see A/66/717) and provides an assessment of the progress made since 2011.

The present note reflects the views of organizations of the United Nations system on the recommendations provided in the report. The views have been consolidated on the basis of inputs provided by member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which welcomed the report and supported its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly and the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

I. Introduction

1. In its report entitled "Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system", the Joint Inspection Unit reports on the progress made since the Unit's previous report,[1] which included 12 recommendations to the United Nations development system on the ways and means of enhancing system-wide contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation, addressing issues of mandates, frameworks and policies, intergovernmental processes, structures, financing and coordination.

II. General comments

2. Organizations of the United Nations system welcome the progress report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system and welcome the recognition of the progress made at the organizational and system-wide levels since the previous report was published.

3. Organizations recognize the coordinating role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and its guidance, including in the area of resource mobilization, noting that this motivates greater cooperation in the development of South-South/triangular cooperation-related projects among project managers within the same organization.

4. Organizations note that, while the recommendations contained in the report are addressed to intergovernmental bodies, namely, the General Assembly and the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, for their deliberations as appropriate, they could have positive implications for most organizations in advancing South-South/triangular cooperation.

III. Comments on specific recommendations

Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should request the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to streamline its reporting requests to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the Office in a manner that eliminates duplication of work.

5. Organizations note that this recommendation is addressed to the General Assembly and welcome the concept of avoiding duplication of report production and related cost savings.

6. Organizations recall that, currently, there are two mandated reports of the Secretary-General containing United Nations system-wide related information: (a) on the state of South-South Cooperation, submitted to the Second Committee of the General Assembly and subsequently to inform the substantive discussions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, during the following year; and (b) review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South Cooperation and the decisions of the High-level Committee", and appreciate the fact that United Nations system-wide reporting requests are channelled through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

[1] JIU/REP/2011/3.

Recommendation 2

The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation should request the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to develop a system-wide resource mobilization strategy, as well as measures to strengthen its role in knowledge-sharing, by the end of 2019.

7. Organizations note that this recommendation is addressed to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

8. Organizations welcome this recommendation, although they underscore the importance for individual United Nations agencies to mobilize resources for South-South/triangular cooperation work in the context of their respective mandates and the need for the support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for that effort.

9. Organizations support the suggestion to strengthen the role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in knowledge-sharing and exchange of experiences within the United Nations system on South-South and triangular cooperation. Organizations also recognize the need for stronger coordination of resources mobilization by United Nations system entities, as well as the development of joint approaches when working with donors and emerging providers. However, organizations observe that the report leaves unclear what would be the scope and purpose of the proposed "system-wide resource mobilization strategy" and suggest further clarity on these, to provide an understanding of the impact of the strategy.

10. Organizations welcome a strengthened role for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in knowledge-sharing around South-South Cooperation, including fostering greater mutual learning between United Nations entities, as well as sharing the latest developments and good practices.

11. Currently, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation is coordinating the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South Cooperation, in cooperation with all relevant United Nations system organizations, to be finalized in time for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held from 20 to 22 March 2019. The Conference could consider a system-wide resource mobilization strategy and knowledge-sharing mechanism as integral components, as needed.